

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Seventh Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Seventh Essex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.5% (680) reside in the Seventh Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (129) of Seventh Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 65.9% of admissions from the Seventh Essex Representative District were male and 34.1% were female.
- Over 61.1% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 86.3% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.5% were black non-Latino, 8.5% were Latino, 0.2% were Asian, and 1.5% were other racial categories.
- 67.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.8% were married, and 13.8% reported not to be married now.
- 31.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 44.9% completed high school, and 23.7% had more than high school education.
- 34.6% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 11.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 14.0% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Seventh Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

| Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| Seventh Essex Representative District | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Alcohol | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack | Heroin | IDU |
| FY '95 | 659 | 538 | 207 | 221 | 164 | 144 | 117 |
| FY '96 | 560 | 450 | 177 | 162 | 106 | 124 | 87 |
| FY '97 | 564 | 466 | 189 | 149 | 103 | 130 | 100 |
| FY '98 | 585 | 464 | 213 | 191 | 82 | 150 | 113 |
| FY '99 | 630 | 504 | 213 | 205 | 101 | 191 | 157 |
| FY '00 | 748 | 571 | 249 | 192 | 91 | 181 | 151 |
| FY '01 | 680 | 534 | 206 | 182 | 64 | 214 | 156 |

- Since dropping in FY 1996, residents of Seventh Essex Representative District reported a steady rise in heroin use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use increased by 48%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 17% and 60%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Seventh Essex Representative District.

| Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001 | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Alcohol | Heroin | Marijuana | Cocaine | Crack |
| District | 50.9% | 25.9% | 8.1% | 5.7% | 1.5% |
| State | 46.5% | 35.9% | 6.5% | 3.9% | 3.4% |

- While heroin and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine was higher within your District.